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Application No.: 10/681,017
Office Action Dated: 11/26/2007

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS

This amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1-23 have been canceled. Claims 24 – 36 are new.

Upon receipt of the Office Action dated 11/26/07, it was discovered that an error had been introduced into the application when responding to the Restriction Requirement dated April 10, 2007. Specifically, in the Reply to that Restriction Requirement filed May 2, 2007, while claims 7-16 were withdrawn from consideration, the elected claims 1-6 and 17-23 of the present application were inadvertently replaced in the Reply with claims 1-6 and 17-23 of co-pending application no. 11/139,947, filed 5/27/2005, which is a continuation-in-part of the present application. That continuation-in-part had the same number of total claims (23) and independent claims (1, 7 and 17) as the present application, and the error went unnoticed until the Office Action dated 11/26/07 was received.

This amendment and Request for Continued Examination are being filed in order to reinstate original claims 1-6 and 16-23 of the present application, as originally filed, as new claims 24-36.

Inasmuch as erroneous claims 1-6 and 17-23 have been canceled, the applicants submit that the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in the Office Action of 11/26/07 is moot.

Examination of new claims 24-36 (*i.e.*, claims 1-6 and 17-23 as originally filed in the present application) is respectfully requested.

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